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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add or amend the claims to read as follows, and cancel without prejudice or disclaimer claims indicated as cancelled. The following Listing of Claims is intended to replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (**Currently Amended**) A management server to execute a computer-implemented framework for managing application complexes, each application complex comprising multiple tiers of servers, where servers in ~~a common~~ the same tier run an identical application[[,]] and ~~all~~ the servers of the multiple tiers work together to provide a specific service, each of said application complexes being definable via ~~an~~ a respective application-complex type, said framework ~~being operated by a management server and~~ comprising:

a plugin interface adapted for connection to the framework of a plugin in respect of ~~each~~ an application-complex type, wherein said plugin encapsulates a relationship between ~~disparate~~ one or more resources composing the respective application-complex type and respective characteristics of said resources[[,]]; and

a user interface adapted to the application-complex type according to said plugin, ~~coupled to the management server and operating under control of the interface for providing general tasks that are independent of operational semantics of the application complex and that~~ wherein said user interface is responsive to user operations input to said framework ~~via a console for interfacing with the framework~~ for defining an application complex as an instance of the application-

complex type and allowing a user to ~~populate~~ control the association of servers
with the multiple tiers of the application complex ~~with servers,~~
wherein the framework is capable of managing multiple application
complexes of different types.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 1, wherein the plugin is adapted to convey to the framework information relating to the type of the application complex, the number of tiers, the application which the servers in each tier should run, and one or more properties of the application complex whose values can be specified by the user for each instance of the application-complex type.
3. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 1, wherein the plugin is responsive to a change in one or more properties of the application complex for configuring at least one of said servers in accordance with said change.
4. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 1, wherein the plugin is adapted to convey to the framework information relating to one or more properties of the application complex whose values are to be monitored by the plugin and the plugin is adapted to monitor said properties and return their respective values or functions thereof to the framework.
5. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 4, wherein the plugin monitors said properties automatically.
6. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 4, wherein the plugin monitors said properties in response to a request by the framework.

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7. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 1, wherein the plugin is responsive to a new server being added to a tier in the application complex for automatically configuring the new server and any other servers in the application complex that relate to the new server.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 1, wherein the plugin is responsive to a server being removed from a tier in the application complex for automatically re-configuring said server and any other servers in the application complex that relate to said server.

9. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 1, wherein the plugin is adapted to request the framework for a new server.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 1, wherein the plugin is adapted to request the framework to remove a server that belongs to the application complex.

11. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 1, wherein the user interface is configured to allow a user to change one or more properties of any application complex instance created by the user.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 1, wherein the user interface is configured to display properties of any application complex instance created by the user and to allow one or more properties thereof to be changed.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 1, wherein the user interface is a graphical user interface.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 1, wherein the user interface is adapted to display current instances of application complexes and servers currently included in each tier thereof.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 7, wherein the user interface is adapted to allow the user to move a server from a free pool of servers into a tier of an application complex instance, and the framework is responsive thereto for identifying the plugin corresponding to said application complex instance for requesting said plugin to reconfigure the server and any other servers in the application complex instance that relate to said server according to the properties of the application complex instance.

16. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 8, wherein the user interface is adapted to allow the user to remove a server from a tier of an application complex instance, and the framework is responsive thereto for identifying the plugin corresponding to said application complex instance for requesting said plugin to reconfigure the server and any other servers in the application complex instance that relate to said server according to the properties of the application complex instance.

17. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 1, wherein the user interface is adapted to allow the user to move a server from a tier of a first application complex instance to a tier of a second application complex instance that is different from the first application complex instance, the respective tier in each of said instances having an identical class, and the framework is responsive thereto for:

identifying the plugin corresponding to said first application complex instance for requesting said plugin to reconfigure the server and any other servers

in the first application complex instance that relate to said server according to the properties of the first application complex instance, the plugin being responsive to said server being removed from the tier in the first application complex for automatically configuring said server and any other servers in the first application complex that relate to said server; and

identifying the plugin corresponding to said second application complex instance for requesting said plugin to reconfigure the server and any other servers in the second application complex instance that relate to said server according to the properties of the second application complex instance, the plugin being responsive to said server being added to a tier in the second application complex for automatically configuring said server and any other servers in the second application complex that relate to said server.

18. (**Currently Amended**) The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 1, wherein the user interface is adapted to allow the user to move a server from a first tier of an application complex instance to a second tier thereof, said first and second tiers having an identical class, and the framework is responsive thereto for:

identifying the plugin corresponding to said application complex instance for requesting said plugin to reconfigure the server and any other servers in the first tier and in the second tier of the application complex instance that relate to said server according to the properties of the application complex instance, the plugin being responsive to said server being removed from the first tier and added to the second tier for automatically configuring said server and any other servers in the application complex that relate to said server.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 4, wherein the user interface is adapted to display the monitored values for each of the monitored properties of any application complex instance created by the user and to interact with the plugin corresponding to each application complex instance to receive the monitored values.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 5, wherein the user interface is adapted to display the monitored values for each of the monitored properties of any application complex instance created by the user and to interact with the plugin corresponding to each application complex instance to receive the monitored values.

21. **(Currently Amended)** The ~~framework~~ management server according to claim 6, wherein the user interface is adapted to display the monitored values for each of the monitored properties of any application complex instance created by the user and to interact with the plugin corresponding to each application complex instance to receive the monitored values.

22. **(Currently Amended)** A machine-readable memory storing an object-oriented data structure to be implemented by a framework executable by a management server for managing ~~an~~ application complexes, each application complex comprising multiple tiers of servers, where servers in ~~a common~~ the same tier run an identical application[[,]] and ~~all~~ the servers work together to provide a specific service, said application complex being definable via an application complex type, ~~and~~

wherein said object-oriented data structure ~~comprising~~ comprises objects that encapsulate a relationship between ~~disparate~~ one or more resources

composing respective application_complex types and respective characteristics of said resources, thus allowing an instance of an application_complex type to be defined[[.]], and

wherein the framework is capable of managing multiple application complexes of different types.

23. **(Currently Amended)** A plugin including the object-oriented data structure according to ~~Claim 22~~, claim 22 and being adapted for connection to a said framework, wherein the framework ~~that~~ includes:

a plugin interface adapted for connecting the plugin to the framework, and

a user interface adapted to the application-complex type according to said object-oriented data structure and ~~coupled to said framework via a console providing general tasks that are independent of operational semantics of the application complex and that is responsive to user operations for interfacing with~~ input to the framework for defining an application complex as an instance of the application-complex type and allowing a user to populate control the association of servers with the multiple tiers of the application complex ~~with servers.~~

24. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program product comprising a computer ~~useable~~ readable medium having stored thereon computer readable program code ~~embodied therein~~ for managing application complexes via a computer-implemented framework ~~operated by a computer~~, each application complex comprising multiple tiers of servers, where servers in ~~a common~~ the same tier run an identical application[[,]] and ~~all~~ the servers of the multiple tiers work together to provide a specific service, each of said

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application complexes being definable via ~~an~~ a respective application-complex type, the computer program product comprising:

computer readable program code for causing ~~the~~ a computer to interface a plugin to the framework in respect of ~~each~~ an application-complex type, wherein said plugin encapsulates a relationship between ~~disparate~~ one or more resources composing the respective application-complex type and respective characteristics of said resources, and

computer readable program code for causing the computer to respond to user operations input thereto via a user interface that is adapted to the application-complex type according to said plugin, input to said framework via a console providing general tasks that are independent of operational semantics of the application complex for interfacing with the framework for defining an application complex as an instance of the application-complex type and allowing a user to populate control the association of servers with the multiple tiers of the application complex ~~with servers.~~

wherein the framework is capable of managing multiple application complexes of different types.

25. (New) A method of managing application complexes using a management framework adapted for execution by a processor, each application complex comprising multiple tiers of servers, where servers in the same tier run an identical application and the servers of the multiple tiers work together to provide a specific service, each of said application complexes being definable via a respective application-complex type, the method comprising:

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providing information to the framework regarding an application-complex type via a respective plugin that supports said application-complex type, wherein said plugin encapsulates a relationship between one or more resources composing the respective application-complex type and respective characteristics of said resources and wherein the framework is capable of managing multiple application complexes of different types;

responding to user operations input to said framework via a user interface that is adapted to the application-complex type according to the information provided by said plugin;

defining an application complex as an instance of said application-complex type according to the information provided by said plugin; and

allowing a user to control the association of servers with the multiple tiers of the application complex.